



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: January 31, 2011  
Month Ending: January 2011  
CWP WA-CW0111

## Crop Progress and Condition for the Month of January 2011 Western

**Clallam:** A mid-January cold snap hit the northern peninsula with temperatures dipping to the mid 20s. Winter Barley appeared to have weathered okay, and cauliflower seed does not show stress at this time.

**Clark:** Raspberry growers were tying up new fields. Winter gardening classes have begun.

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum:** Conditions have been very wet around here. Strawberry producers were wondering what the effect of a seemingly overabundance of standing water will have on their strawberry plants next year. They were thinking there will be heavy root rot.

**Jefferson:** January has been wetter than normal and will affect fieldwork which will have to be started later than normal due to especially wet grounds.

**Grays Harbor:** Spring flower bulb growers reported rapid emergence of daffodils due to a week of mild weather late in the month. Christmas tree growers were busy cleaning fields with some already planting noble fir seedlings. A few ag producers took advantage of a week of dry weather at the end of the month to plow fields with lighter soils. Greenhouse tomato growers were transplanting seedlings for this year's crop. Livestock producers reported the longer days have already resulted in some forage growth.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Typical winter conditions. It's been rainy but no significant flood or weather events so far. Livestock and crops were wintering as expected.

**Pacific:** With cold wet conditions, growers continued equipment repair and maintenance activities this past month. Shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvesting operations, and prepared for spring seeding activities.

**Pierce/King:** Wet, cool conditions have significantly reduced pasture conditions.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather this past month as been typical with no unusual situations to report. No report of any crop damage due to an abnormal weather event.

**Skagit:** A lot of flooding took place in January of 2011 especially in the Samish watershed. Loss of potato and

vegetable cabbage seed due to cold weather in December. Many wheat fields were submerged under water for long durations during the storms in January.

**Skagit/San Juan:** Excessive rain has created drowned-out areas in fall seeded crops. Seed crops have suffered losses due to freeze and excessively cold temperatures in late November and late December.

**Snohomish/King:** A very wet month with rain every week. Standing water was in most lowland fields. Ditching was underway in the wetter fields. The fall-planted rye looked good where it does exist. Muddy conditions were in other areas.

**Snohomish/North King:** January flooding in the area left considerably more silt in some fields than floods in past years. Some grass fields will require reseeding later this spring. Other areas planted to wheat and/or grasses were not impacted by the high water. Blueberries were impacted by saturated ground and high winds, knocking plants over and breaking ties that hold them.

**Thurston:** Typical cold, wet January weather limited most ag producers to inside chores. Low lying pastures and hayfields were covered with water due to minor flooding of the Chehalis River during the middle of the month. Christmas tree growers were busy cleaning harvested fields between rain showers. Conifer tree seedling nurseries were at their peak of lifting and packaging tree seedlings for planting later this spring. Forage producers reported ample supplies of haylage which was still available. Most ag producers were breathing a huge sigh of relief that so far the winter weather has not been nearly as bad as predicted.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Haylage was holding out. Ground was very wet.

**Whatcom:** January was a very wet month, with just under seven inches of rain, which caused minor flooding in the county. Standing water in fields has given berry producers concern of potential root rot conditions. Also, the temperature fluctuations from the low 20s to high 50s could contribute to crop damage. Pasture conditions were not good from the excessive moisture in the fields.

# Central

**Chelan:** Reports of cold damage to trees due to pre-Thanksgiving sub-zero temperatures were coming in frequently.

**Douglas:** Most of the winter wheat looked good. Much of the snow cover started to melt leaving exposed wheat. The highest of the highs was 46.7 degrees on January 17th. The lowest of the low was 13.3 degrees on January 19th. There was 0.17 of an inch of precipitation in the form of rain on January 17th.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Temperatures warmed up in January, which melted much of the snowpack. Fruit growers continued to prune. The winter wheat remained snow covered in most areas, which will protect it from cold temperatures which are common in February. The ground was not frozen before snow cover, which means all this moisture is going into the ground.

**Franklin:** For the most part, January has provided more precipitation than normal with moderate temperatures. There was little snow (less than normal) with more rain and seemingly less frozen days. Dry land range and wheat conditions were the best seen in years. Some of the later planted wheat showed some signs of winter damage from the early November freeze and a few frozen days in December, but as of January, most producers were not as concerned. Field corn continued to be harvested through January. At the beginning of the month, we estimated around 20 percent of the 2010 crop was still left standing with continued dry down issues. At this point in Franklin County, it's more likely 5 percent was left un-cut. There have been reports of concern regarding early winter freeze damage on young fruit trees and grape vines, but to date no real solid information.

**Grant:** Approximately 5000 acres of dry corn was still un-harvested at this time. Moisture conditions have not allowed the corn to dry to lower levels. Some reports have been received that loads of corn taken to warehouses were now being rejected due to mold conditions. Unlike most of the state, snow cover still exists in the northern parts of the county, which consists mostly of our dry land regions. Some reports were received that winter wheat looked healthy in areas that was exposed.

**Kittitas:** January has been a mixed bag of cold and warm and not much snow, contrary to expectations. Weather conditions have not been favorable for winter grazing, but much of the snow melted away by the end of the month. Moisture levels on range and pasture were roughly average.

**Klickitat:** Temperatures were not extreme this month with periods of light snow, some rain showers and fewer

foggy days than expected for January. In the central Klickitat County farming area of Centerville and Goldendale Valley, there were nine days with highs into the 50s and 22 days with the daily low temperature below freezing. The high was 54 degrees mid-month and the low was 10 degrees on January 1. Measurable precipitation of approximately two inches was less than anticipated for an El Nino winter. Three wind events all out of the west with gusts into the 30s were outdone by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day storm when winds of around 50 mph resulted in extensive power outages. Soil conditions were heavy with moisture as ice broke up. Creeks have run high. Soil temperatures were above 40 degrees in the Columbia River orchard district. In open agricultural areas of the Goldendale Valley and Simcoe highlands, soil temperatures were about five to ten degrees colder. Conditions this month were good for outdoor activities including pruning in orchards. Cattle were in good shape and hay supplies were holding up. Spring calving was not yet underway. Lambing and kidding was in progress. Ag producers were busy with year-end recordkeeping. Home gardeners dug over wintered root crops including parsnips, beets and turnips that have remained in good shape were well mulched.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Weather has been warm for January. Temperatures were in the 40s during the day and dropping to barely freezing at night. Some rain and snow showers which helped with moisture but it was a dryer month than normal. Ground water table was still high due to all the rains and snow from December. Producers were feeding cattle and some were out on winter range. Not much fieldwork going on but there was some on the Roosevelt hills.

**Yakima:** Yakima County experienced a rather mild January. The coldest temperatures occurred during the first three days of the month with lows of -1 to 10 degrees. Nighttime temperature gradually increased through the month with day time highs reaching into the lower 60s mid-January. Total precipitation received varied from 0.4 to 0.75 inches with most of the precipitation coming in the form of heavy snow and rain on January 15th and 16th. Fruit tree pruning continued especially during the mild weather in later weeks of the month. Stone fruit and grape producers were modifying their pruning practices to compensate for bud loss from frost damage that occurred in late November of last year.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from 12 degrees below normal to 19 degrees above normal, with 0.61 of an inch of precipitation. No new concerns regarding possible crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.

# Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat remained in good to excellent condition and should have good moisture conditions as precipitation has penetrated the soil and runoff has been minimal.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Typical January weather prevailed with nighttime temperatures below freezing, and thawing during the days. Overall, wheat appeared to have weathered the winter to date in good shape. A few fruit producers have indicated possible damage to trees showing as a result of earlier cold weather, but it is too early to assess overall damages.

**Asotin:** Warmer than normal temperatures and adequate rainfall was normal for most parts of the county.

**Columbia:** Good precipitation over the past month. But unusually warm weather the past two weeks have taken much of the snow off of the mountains. We received more snow yesterday though.

**Ferry:** Snow was still on the ground. Although cycling of thaws and freezing were producing ice sheets in many areas which may be detrimental to some perennial and winter crops. Other than that it has been unusually warm and low precipitation as far as snow depth.

**Garfield:** Cold wet weather raises concerns about late crops with new strain of rust present. Wheat was fine right now. Spring calving will start in February.

**Garfield/Asotin:** The winter wheat crop appeared to be in good condition at this time. Damage from the cold weather in December appeared to be minimal. Temperatures that have been well above normal for most of January have caused wheat to break dormancy early and begin to grow. These conditions leave the crop vulnerable to winter damage if cold weather returns. Precipitation has been near normal for the winter. Recent soil test indicated soil moisture was good only down to about 2 feet. More rain and snow is needed to help restore subsoil moisture before spring.

**Lincoln:** The winter has been treating us nicely so far. After a snowy December, January has left us with more rain than snow. There has been some field erosion where the rain fell on frozen soils.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Less snow received in January than the previous month with January temperatures not being extremely cold for the most part. Much of the snow had melted with most of it being absorbed into the soil with little runoff occurring.

**Lincoln (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat remained in good to excellent conditions and should have good moisture conditions as precipitation has penetrated the soil and runoff has been minimal.

**Pend Oreille:** Pasture was under over a foot of snow. Just below freezing is good weather for calving.

**Stevens:** Canadian interests continued to hunt local hay packaged in small square bales. Alfalfa and grass hay showed the best demand.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A blanket of snow continued to cover Stevens County. Cows and calves have been moving to market at good prices. The local hay supply was adequate.

**Walla Walla:** The weather started off cold, then warm then ending in cold conditions again. Precipitation was below average for January but still good topsoil moisture. Wheat farmers were on the alert for rust. Grain and livestock prices were really good. Lock closures haven't caused as many problems as expected. Grain companies were prepared and doing a good job of minimizing effects.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area has received more precipitation during the month. The temperatures have been mild for January. The wheat was growing very good and was around 10 to 12 inches in height. Since October, the area has received about 12 to 16 inches of precipitation.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**January 1 - January 31, 2011**

									DAYS		DAYS
	AIR									OF	OF
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD	HDD	32	28
STATION	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOT	DFN	COLD	COLD
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WEST											
Bellingham_Intl	56	20	41	+4	6.74	+2.17	21	710	-115	10	5
Hoquiam	54	27	43	+1	11.28	+1.87	22	664	-19	9	3
Kelso	55	18	41	+3	6.21	-0.30	18	701	-82	8	5
Olympia	58	14	41	+3	7.22	-0.55	21	723	-88	12	6
Seattle-Tacoma_	55	25	42	+3	4.76	-0.46	20	684	-65	7	4
Shelton	56	14	40	+1	8.44	-1.63	20	741	-22	13	7
Tacoma_WA_AP	56	14	40	+2	4.58	-1.03	20	725	-46	13	6
Vancouver_WA	59	19	42	+5	4.67	-1.20	18	686	-124	10	5
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	57	-1	31	+6	1.33	+0.12	17	1005	-177	22	15
Omak_AP	45	-4	27	+5	0.62	-0.78	5	1131	-151	23	21
Stampede_Pass	55	5	30	+7	17.45	+4.15	25	1056	-177	20	14
Wenatchee_AP	56	3	29	+3	0.66	-0.44	6	1061	-80	22	16
Yakima_AP	62	5	33	+4	0.61	-0.57	7	945	-119	26	18
NORTHEAST											
Colville	46	-2	27	+3	2.24	-0.07	10	1131	-79	26	20
Deer_Park	44	-15	26	+1	2.49	+0.65	12	1155	-33	24	22
Republic	47	-4	28	+7	1.39	-0.02	14	1090	-200	26	20
Spokane_AP	51	-4	30	+4	2.43	+0.51	16	1044	-99	22	16
EAST_CENTRAL											
Ephrata	54	2	29	+3	0.49	-0.29	6	1075	-65	26	19
Moses_Lake	56	2	29	+3	0.74	-0.04	9	1061	-79	26	15
Quincy	58	14	32	+6	1.06	+0.24	8	979	-167	18	15
Ritzville	53	5	30	+3	1.02	-0.11	8	1032	-94	26	18
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	60	8	33	-1	0.71	-0.05	11	963	+6	18	16
Pasco	64	8	37	+5	0.62	-0.38	11	837	-123	17	15
Pullman	55	-2	32	+5	2.43	-0.22	17	971	-123	16	12
Walla_Walla_Rgn	62	10	38	+5	1.38	-0.84	13	796	-134	15	8
Whitman_Mission	63	5	36	+4	1.42	-0.12	15	863	-94	22	15
IDAHO											
WESTERN_IDAHO_PANHANDLE											
Lewiston_ID	56	14	37	+5	1.02	-0.22	9	819	-125	12	10

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2010

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary:

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